

# Hawaii MARINE

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## Marines rush to aid mudslide victims

Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit unload an HS-60S helicopter from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 to deliver supplies and equipment from the dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry. Marines are conducting operations in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts on the island of Leyte, following a Feb. 17 landslide, which devastated Guinsaugon, located in the southern part of the island.

Petty Officer 1st Class Michael D. Kennedy



### Search and Rescue efforts continue in Leyte, Philippines despite setbacks

#### American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — Filipino and U.S. forces with Joint Task Force Balikatan 2006 continued search and rescue efforts today following the Feb. 17 mudslide in Leyte, Philippines, U.S. military officials said.

U.S. Marines with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, which is serving as the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, discovered seven local mudslide victims while working at the

disaster site, officials said.

U.S. military forces were in the area participating in Exercise Balikatan 2006.

Filipino and U.S. forces continue to work with a sense of urgency, Marine Brig. Gen. Mastin Robeson, commander of Joint Task Force Balikatan 2006, said. Civilian rescue experts also are working with local authorities to determine when the search phase will be completed and the site will be considered a

*See Aid, A-6*

## 30 Marines return from Iraq



### First group from 3rd Radio Battalion lands at MCBH

#### Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Combat Correspondent

Marines assigned to 3rd Radio Battalion returned home Feb. 16 after an eight-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Thirty Marines arrived at Hanger 105 at the Marine Corps Air Facility where friends and family members hung signs that welcomed home the returning Marines and Sailors.

As the flight that carried the Marines arrived closer toward the hangar, family members grabbed their leis and gathered around on the air field to wait for their loved ones to get off the aircraft.

"I've missed him a lot," said Joslyn Anderson, wife of Staff Sgt. Chris Anderson. "I've been waiting for this moment for eight and a half months."

As Staff Sgt. Chris Anderson, platoon sergeant, 3rd Radio Battalion, stepped off the aircraft he was greeted by his wife and three children who put leis around his neck and hugged and kissed him.

"It feels awesome to be home," said Anderson. "It feels like Christmas and my birthday all in one, and more."

The 30-year-old Fredericksburg, Va. native went on to say that his time in Iraq was a memorable one for him.

"That was the first time I was in Iraq," said Anderson. "It gave me a better understanding of the human situation that's going on over there. I got to see firsthand the difference we're making over there, besides what we see on the news and in media."

The Marines and Sailors are the first group from 3rd Radio Battalion to return home from Iraq. The remainder of the battalion is scheduled to return in the next several weeks.

*See IED, A-6*



Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Army Sgt. Lariel Porter (Left), a 391st combat engineer from Spartanburg, S.C., Lance Cpl. Jose Colon (middle), from Chicago, and Cpl. Dean Schantz, from Northport, Long Island, N.Y., both Marine Corps combat engineers with 1/3, inspect an area along the Pech River Road, aka IED Alley, for IEDs.

# IED ALLEY

## The road to Camp Blessing

#### Sgt. Joe Lindsay Combat Correspondent

**BAR KANDAY, Afghanistan** — It is arguably the weapon U.S. forces on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan dread most – the improvised explosive device, better known among the troops simply as IED.

IEDs come in many shapes and sizes, and their explosions can originate from a seemingly endless array of locations – roads, bridges, trees, walls, vehicles, livestock, dead dogs, bags of trash, and even human beings themselves. The list goes on.

One Marine Corps unit serving literally on the edge of the frontier in the War on Terror, has found a particularly effective way of discovering IEDs before they can be detonated by insurgents – warnings from the local populace.

"Camp Blessing is the most secluded, isolated and northernmost Marine Corps outpost in the War on Terror," said Gunnery Sgt. Dean Weichert, company gunnery sergeant for Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently serving as Camp Blessing's logistical support team commander. "There are no luxuries here. We need the sup-

port of the people," admitted the York, Pa. native.

"This is Indian country," added 1st Sgt. Peter Siaw, Weapons Company first sergeant, 1/3, and acting first sergeant of Camp Blessing. "The surrounding populace in this area of the Kunar Province in eastern Afghanistan has a history of being very aggressive and hostile toward coalition forces.

"There is only one road into Camp Blessing and one road out," continued the Chicago native. "The Marines call it 'IED Alley.' We are surrounded by mountains on all sides and our convoys get ambushed, there are rocket and mortar attacks on the camp, and engagements with the insurgents are commonplace. But we dish out far worse than we get from the insurgents, and with the combination of our victories in battle and our respect of the local populace and their culture, there has been a noticeable shift in the attitudes of the locals towards our presence here."

That shift in attitude was perhaps never more apparent than on the morning of Feb. 14 when Marines from Camp Blessing's Combined Anti-Armor Team-2, Combat Engineer Platoon, U.S. Army soldiers from the 391st Combat Engineer Platoon

and the 759th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoon along with Afghan Security Forces embarked on what many consider to be the most dangerous job in combat – sweeping for mines and IEDs.

"The minesweeper walks ahead of the convoy with only one Marine along with him for security," said 1st Lt. James Campbell, Camp Blessing officer-in-charge. "When the minesweeper gets close to or locates an IED, there is always a chance that whoever the insurgent is whose job it is to detonate the IED will attempt to blow up the minesweeper and the Marine providing security."

"Of course they'd rather hit the convoy in an attempt to inflict a greater amount of casualties, but they'll try to take out the two Marines on point if they think that's all they can get," continued the native of Newburgh, Ind. "To me, the minesweeper, and combat engineer, in general, are some of the bravest Marines we've got."

On this day, however, there was perhaps one person who some would say was the bravest of all.

"As our convoy was moving forward slowly, following the minesweeper on foot, a little Afghan boy, no more than 6 or 7 years old, frantically flagged us down," recalled Sgt. Christopher

Rivera, Camp Blessing motor transportation chief from Hollywood, Fla.

"We sent one of our Afghan interpreters over to the boy, and the boy told our interpreter that there was an IED buried in the road just ahead. The boy took us straight to the IED sight and from a safe distance, pointed out what turned out to be its exact location. He was a very brave little boy.

"Our interpreter told us that if the ACM (Anti-Coalition Militia) ever found out who that boy was, then they would most likely kill him and his entire family for helping us," added Lance Cpl. James Bragg, a CAAT-2 machinegunner for 1/3 from Philadelphia. "That took a lot of guts for him to step forward, but it also illustrates the type of enemy we are up against. They are worse than cowards. The insurgents are cold-blooded murderers who would kill a child to intimidate others."

After the minesweepers confirmed the exact location of the IED, EOD was called in and detonated the device.

"It was a pretty big IED," said Cpl. Matthew Schenkenfelder, who was first on the scene and one of two 1/3 Marines (the other being Lance Cpl. Jose Colon, from

### INSIDE



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# News Briefs

**CI/HUMINT Specialists Needed**  
Marine Corps Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence is looking for intelligent, motivated, multi-talented and ambitious corporals, sergeants and staff sergeants who have less than eight years time in service for a lateral move to the 0211 military occupational specialty.  
For information on prerequisites, training and operations ask your career retention specialist, Marine Corps Base Hawaii Base Career Retention Specialist Master Sgt. Buckley at 257-7723 or the Marine Forces Pacific CI/HUMINT Branch at 477-8447.

**MCCS One Source**  
Representatives from MCCS One Source will be aboard base to present their program:  
**Feb. 24:** 10 to 11 a.m. at the Base Chapel (COs, XO's, and senior enlisted)  
**Feb. 28:** 1 p.m. at the Base Theater (for Key Volunteers; L.I.N.K.S. team members and Single Marine & Sailor Program members)  
**Feb. 28:** 6 p.m. at the Base Theater (for all hands)  
**Note:** The briefs scheduled for March 1 have been rescheduled for Feb. 28.  
For additional information, call Jennifer Starnes at 257-7786.

**Recruiter Assistants Needed**  
Want an opportunity to earn promotion points and spend up to 30 days at home without taking leave? The Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Pittsburgh is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants. For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact Staff Sergeant Ronald L. Samuel at (412) 395-6355.

**Registration open for SSWLS**  
The 2006 Sea Service Women's Leadership Symposium, to be held March 21 aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, is now open for registration. The event is open to all leaders.  
The primary goals for SSWLS are to actively support the sea services in the retention and career development of women and leaders of women, be an essential element in maintaining operational readiness, provide professional development and mentoring, and support gender diversity.  
To register visit [www.sswls.org](http://www.sswls.org) or call 1-866-462-2838

**Art Auction**  
There will be an All Hands Art Auction Feb. 25 from 6 to 10 p.m. at The Officers' Club. For information and tickets, contact KOSC at [kosc\\_mcbh@yahoo.com](mailto:kosc_mcbh@yahoo.com).

**Scholarship Announcement**  
The All Enlisted Spouses Club 2006 Scholarship applications are in and open to dependents and spouses of MCBH enlisted service members. Stop by the AESC Thrift Shop or the Joint Education Center to see if you qualify for the scholarship. Completed applications must be turned in no later than April 15. For more details, visit the Thrift Shop, Building 212 (Pless Hall) on 3rd Street or call 254-0841.

**Road Work**  
From Feb. 27 through March 17, traffic on Hawkins Street, Mokapu Road, Harris Ave. and Selden Street will be periodically interrupted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The roadways will undergo hot AC patchwork, mow strip completion and curb, gutter, and sidewalk repair. One lane will be shut down at a time, when necessary to facilitate repairs. Point of contact for this matter is the Family Housing Tenant Relations Manager Andy Gasper who can be reached at 257-1257 ext. 287.

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700

## Hawaii MARINE

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**FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8835**



## Commanding General Marine Corps Base Hawaii

### Trafficking in Persons Policy Statement


February 7, 2006

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a growing problem that is threatening both our core values as Marines as well as our warfighting institution. Every year, the basic individual right of existence is threatened for hundreds of thousands of individuals. The third largest crime worldwide, human trafficking is estimated to be a \$10 billion a year business. While commercial sex exploitation is the first example of TIP, it is also represented in forced labor, debt bondage, and child labor. I echo our commander in Chief's **"Zero Tolerance"** approach to the problem.

TIP is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or position of vulnerability or giving payments or benefits for control of another person for exploitation. Violation of these basic human rights violates our values of honor, courage, and commitment. TIP provides some specific threats to our Force. Beyond the obvious threat of HIV/AIDS and other STDs (which can rapidly decrease the combat effectiveness of a unit), there is the growing evidence that profit from TIP is making its way back to buy arms for our adversaries in the global war on terrorism.

Our first step is education. We must ensure that every Marine, Sailor, and civilian Marine assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawaii understands the severity of this crime and the degree that it has invaded our area of responsibility. Commanders will incorporate TIP training into their new joint indoctrination program and will establish TIP as an annual training requirement. All personnel will receive initial training within 30 days of this policy letter. The awareness and education program will emphasize the ramifications of TIP and that participation in any activity associated with this crime will not be tolerated and will be punished.

Each Marine, Sailor, and civilian Marine must understand their responsibility to avoid these activities that support TIP and to report suspicious instances to the Base Inspector or department of Defense Inspector General. This is an inherent part of our leadership responsibilities at all levels and our ethos as Marines.



S.A. HUMMER  
BRIGADIER GENERAL, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDING GENERAL, MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII

# Magazine sales scam hits MCBH

**1st Lieutenant Jason H. Lee**  
*Legal Assistance Officer*

Because of the dangers of a potentially hostile environment, deployed Marines must constantly be on their guard while patrolling the streets in Iraq or the mountains of Afghanistan. Hawaii, by contrast, may seem like, well — an island paradise. And what danger or harm could there be in going off-base, meeting and making some new friends, and possibly even inviting them on base?

Nevertheless, Marine Corps Base Hawaii Marines, sailors, and DoD civilians must be aware that while Hawaii is no combat zone, applicable force protection measures do exist and must be followed, and personal consequences for such violations do exist.

Recently, individuals engaged in a magazine-subscription scam have approached Marines in their barracks. The individuals engaged in the scam gained access simply by asking willing Marines to give them a ride onto base.

The scam involves selling fake subscriptions to magazines, or subscriptions at inflated prices. In addition, the sellers use a variety of deceptive sales pitches. These include claims that they are students working their way through school, that

they are in a management-training program, that they are in a contest and need only a few more sales to win, or that they are working to support some charitable organization.

Proper authorization or sponsorship is required for all persons to enter the base. In addition, Base Order P5500.15B states that "Any military service-member, civilian DoD employee, who invite persons to come aboard are responsible for their guests. If a guest violates base orders or regulations the individual who sponsored the guest will lose sponsorship privileges for six months."

Door-to-door solicitation in family housing areas or bachelor quarters is prohibited without written approval from the commanding general. Thus, those Marines responsible for bringing the salespersons on base would stand to lose sponsorship privileges for six months. Still, the individual loss of sponsorship privileges may yet prove small compared to potential consequences from having unauthorized and unsupervised personnel on base.

While it isn't uncommon for friends and family to ask to visit the base, you should be wary of strangers or relatively new acquaintances who ask you to bring them on base, and what their intentions are.

**Rules to follow:**

- KNOW who your guests are! Do not agree to bring individuals whom you either do not personally know, or cannot verify their identity, on base.
- You do not have to accompany your guests everywhere they go on base, but at a minimum, know where your guests are and what they are doing.
- Door-to-door solicitation in family housing areas or bachelor quarters is prohibited without written approval from the commanding general. If you see individuals engaged in door-to-door solicitation in family housing areas or bachelor quarters (including the barracks), inform the military police immediately.

**Precautions for avoiding door-to-door sales scams in general:**

- Always ask to see some identification
- Ask the seller to provide you with notification of your right, in writing, to cancel the sale (if applicable)
- Call the school's number which the seller claims to represent to verify that they have someone soliciting donations in your area.
- Check out the sellers and their business organization by calling the Better Business Bureau before agreeing to buy.

- Consider whether you really want the offered product or service.
- Don't accept pressure to make a hasty purchase; a legitimate seller will give you time to consider.
- Don't sign a contract which doesn't explain your rights to cancel or discontinue service.
- Make sure your contract has the name and physical address of the seller's business organization.
- Only sign a contract if you have carefully read it and fully understand it.
- Pay attention to even your slightest doubts: Do you need it, really want it, can you even afford it?
- Prior to signing a contract, seek legal assistance to review the terms and conditions of the contract.

**For additional information or legal assistance, contact:**


Legal Assistance Office  
MCBH  
Bldg 215

Walk-in hours: T, R, 0800-1130  
By appointment: M, W, F

Phone: 257-2110  
Fax: 257-3319

## Weekend weather outlook

### Today




**Day** — Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light winds. Chance of rain 20 percent.

**Night** — Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light winds. Chance of rain 20 percent.

**High** — 71-77  
**Low** — 60-66

### Saturday




**Day** — Partly cloudy with isolated showers East winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent.

**Night** —Partly cloudy with scattered showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

**High** — 71-77  
**Low** — 63-68

### Sunday



**Day** — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

**Night** — Mostly cloudy with numerous showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent.

**High** — 71-77  
**Low** — 63-69



# GOING THE DISTANCE



Photo courtesy of HMH-363

## Red Lions tally 300 flight hours

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

For the first time in 10 years, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 has achieved a goal not met often by a Delta squadron.

They have flown more than 300 flight hours within one month in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Iraq.

"We haven't achieved this many flight hours in one month since 1996" said 1st Lt. Fred R. Neubert, staff-historian, HMH-363.

"The squadron logged a total of 305.2 hours this past month, which is a great achievement," said Neubert.

On average, the helicopter squadron usually logs approximately 175 hours of flight time, but but because the squadron participated in the Hawaii Combined Arms Exercise this year, their flight hours have nearly doubled.

"It wasn't our intent to actually get that many flight hours during the month,"

said the Knoxville, Ill. native. "We performed personnel and cargo transfers, night vision goggle ops, external lifts, aerial gun shoots, fast roping, rappelling, along with other training missions during HCAX."

The high number of flight hours is also good preparation for the squadron which will be deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the near future, said Lt. Col. Allen Broughton, commanding officer, HMH-363.

"We understand that we are going to be flying very long hours in various conditions while deployed," said Broughton. "To prepare, we will continue to do work-up training with more difficult; more tactical training. We will soon be attending Desert Talon in Yuma, Ariz., for more pre-deployment training."

The Lemoore, Calif. native said that the CH53D Sea Stallions actually fly better if used more often.

"The more you fly this aircraft, the more it wants to fly," said Broughton. "Just like anything else, they sometimes break. But if you exercise them, they tend to stay in better shape than if they just sit there."

Broughton said the Marines of HMH-363 took pride in their accomplishment, and he wants to credit a lot of the squadron's success to the maintenance Marines.

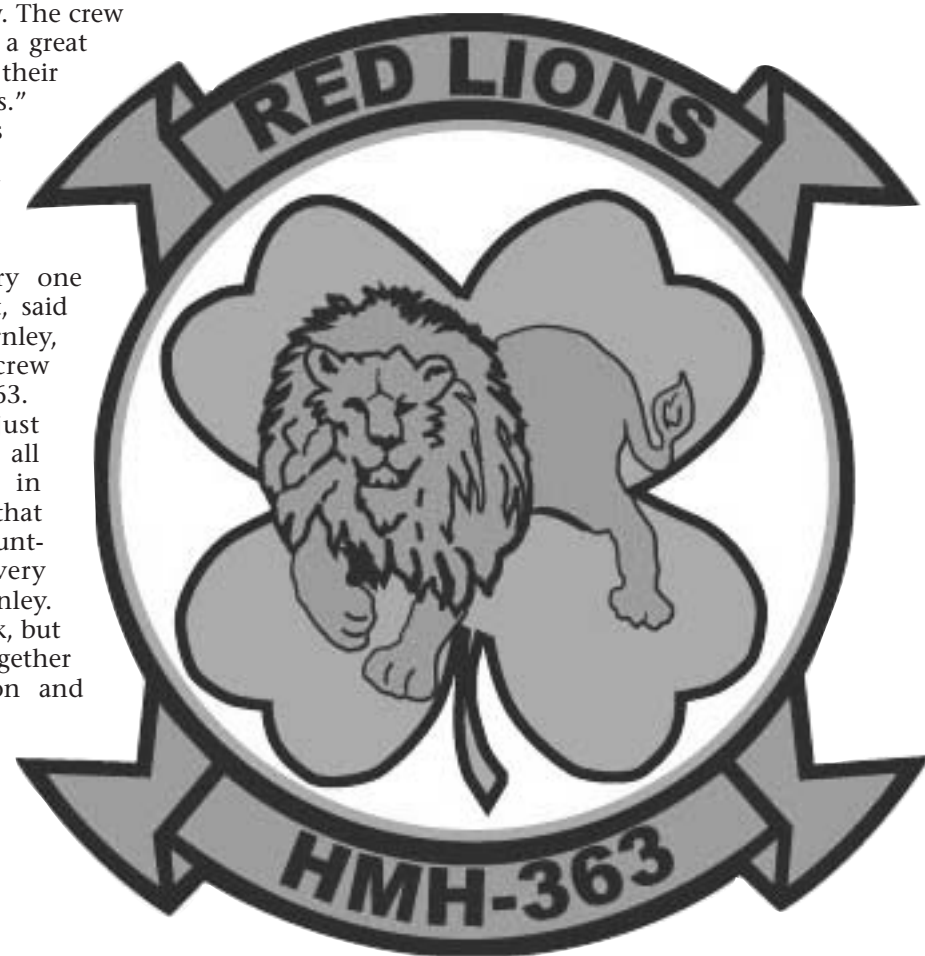
"They really concentrated on smart maintenance and kept the aircrafts flyable," said Broughton. "It is a lot of work, but the Marines made it happen. Their hard work and pride helped the squadron, and I don't see us having any problems in the future."

"Maintaining the aircrafts is a lot of work, but it's a group effort," said Sgt. Alfred Perez, CH-53D mechanic, HMH-363. "It takes dedication from the Flightline shop as a whole. But the true work horses are the lance corpo-

rals and below. The crew chiefs also do a great job with all their responsibilities."

It takes about 40 hours of maintenance on one aircraft for every one hour of flight, said Sgt. John Carnley, flightline crew chief, HMH-363.

"It's not just this shop but all the shops in maintenance that put forth a countless effort every day," said Carnley. "It's hard work, but we all work together at the mission and pull through. It's a great accomplishment for the Red Lions."



Photos by Capt. Chad Bignell

Marines of HMH-363 refuel their aircrafts at the Forward Arming and Refueling Point during HCAX. The Red Lions are preparing for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.



# Once a Marine, always a Marine

**Sgt. Joe Lindsay**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**N A N G A L A M , Afghanistan** — Recently, the U.S. Army Reserve had an ad campaign geared to former Marines and to Marines who were nearing the end of their active duty service date. The recruiting ad read simply, “Sometimes the best soldier for the job is a Marine.”

In smaller print, there was of course the standard talk of continued benefits — money for college, retirement, and so forth.

For one former Marine the call to service in the U.S. Army Reserve had nothing to do with benefits or the influence of an arguably rather clever recruiting campaign. It had, instead, everything to do with what he thought was right.

“I clearly remember the president, shortly after 911, asking each American to give two years back to their country,” said U.S. Army Capt. Jerry Brennan, an aeromedical evacuation officer with the 1042 Medical Company, Air Ambulance, Oregon National Guard, currently serving as the Task Force Sabre Aviation Detachment officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Airfield, in addition to his duties as a UH-60 medevac pilot and air mission commander. “This is my way of giving something back.”

Brennan, who served in the Marine Corps as a CH-53AD/E helicopter pilot with HMH-361 from 1984 to 1992, originally joined the Marines, in part, to pay homage to his father, a highly decorated Vietnam vet-

eran.

“My Dad, Tony Brennan, was my biggest influence in joining the Marine Corps, originally,” said Brennan, a graduate of the University of Oregon who now calls Lake Oswego, Ore., his home. “He received a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and sustained multiple combat injuries in Vietnam.”

Brennan had been out of the Marines for nine years when the fateful day came that would bring him back into the service of his country.

“When we were attacked on 911, I decided to serve my country again,” said Brennan. “I was originally born in New York and had recently relocated my wife Sara and our children, Emma, 6, and Charlie, 2, back to Oregon just prior to the attack. A friend of mine was killed working in the World Trade Center on September 11. Also, my brother was Rudy Giuliani’s speech writer and was there with the mayor when the towers came down. I joined the Oregon National Guard shortly after September 11th 2001.”

Nearly four years to the day of the attacks of September 11, Brennan and his fellow soldiers from the 1042, based out of Salem, Ore., found themselves headed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The deployment for Brennan came at a difficult time.

“My Dad passed away shortly before we deployed,” said Brennan. “He was my hero.”

Now, however, it seems as if Brennan has taken the role that

his father held in the eyes of his son and the men he led in Vietnam — the role of hero.

“I have never met Captain Brennan, or anybody from the 1042, but I know who he is, and I know who they are” said Sgt. Michael Chambers, a Bronze Star with combat “V” and Purple Heart medal recipient who currently serves with as a platoon sergeant for Charlie Company, 3rd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

“Captain Brennan has reached a sort of folk hero status out here at Camp Blessing among the Marines, because we’ve seen him come into hot LZ’s [landing zones] under enemy fire and risk his life to save ours.

“We all heard that there’s a former Marine pilot out here with the 1042, and that makes us feel like we’ve got a guardian angel in Captain Brennan,” continued Chambers, a native of Lexington, S.C.

“When you’ve got a brother on the ground bleeding and the 1042 comes to pick him up and give him a chance to survive when otherwise there would be no chance at all, that’s just like a guardian angel to us.”

Sgt. Brent Wright, a platoon guide with Charlie Company, 3rd Platoon, 1/3, spoke of Brennan in a similar vein.

“We’re in the hot spot in Afghanistan at Camp Blessing,” said Wright, a Navy Commendation with combat “V” and Purple Heart medal recipient from Littleton, Colo. “It helps our fighting spirit when we see helicopter pilots like Captain Brennan come in



Photo courtesy of Capt. Jerry Brennan

**U.S. Army Capt. Jerry Brennan, an aeromedical evacuation officer with the 1042 Medical Company, (Air Ambulance), Oregon National Guard, currently serving as the Task Force Sabre Aviation Detachment officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Airfield in addition to his duties as a UH-60 MEDEVAC pilot and air mission commander, poses for a photo. Brennan served in the Marine Corps as a helicopter pilot before joining the National Guard shortly after September 11, 2001.**

here to the danger zone.

“Obviously this area is dangerous because of rocket attacks, mortar attacks and small-arms fire. But even without that, even if this AO [area of operations] was completely peaceful and serene, it is still dangerous to land here because of the mountains, weather, and terrain,” continued Wright. “Captain Brennan puts it on the line to help us in tight spots. As far as we’re concerned, he’s a Marine serving in the Army. Nothing wrong with that. Once a Marine, always a Marine.”

Those who serve with Brennan in the 1042 spoke of him in the highest of terms.

“He is a fine officer,” said Army Staff Sgt. Larrie Ericson, a 36-year veteran of the Oregon National Guard assigned to the 1042. “And I’ve been around long enough to know. He’s the best of the best.”

According to Brennan, the true best of the best is his family back in Oregon.

“Being away from my family is definitely the most difficult part of being deployed,” said Brennan.

Brennan also made it a point to thank his company back in the states for their understanding during his deployment to Afghanistan.

“I am going back to work for Welch Allyn Incorporated, a

diagnostic medical company that makes the patient monitors in our Blackhawk helicopters,” said Brennan. “They have treated me and my family very well and have gone well beyond their call of duty by supporting me on my deployment.”

In closing, Brennan said it has been a true pleasure to support the Marines once again.

“I believe I was selected for the position to work with the Marines here in Afghanistan because of my prior Marine Corps service,” said Brennan. “I hold a special place in my heart for fellow Marines – I think all Marines do.”

## From the Edge

Compiled by Sgt. Joe Lindsay



**Sgt. Damian Haug**  
Fargo, N.D.,  
platoon sergeant, 1/3,  
Asadabad,  
Afghanistan

*“To my wife Karen, I miss you and love you. Morale is high, and we’re fighting the good fight over here. Still, I can’t wait to get back to the Eight-o-Eight and be with you again. The Afghan people live a hard, rough life. They are strong and good people. We’re helping them get rid of the insurgents and they are grateful to us for that. We are in the enemy’s backyard. We will continue to flush them out and make this country safe for the good people here.”*



**Petty Officer 1st Class Mildred Zielinski**  
Montgomery, Ala.,  
religious program specialist, 1/3,  
Jalalabad, Afghanistan

*“My dearest Jeffrey and beautiful children. I love and miss all of you. To my wonderful family. Thank you for always supporting me. I love and miss you all very much. I hope to see you all soon. To the families of the Marines in 1/3, I would just like to say I couldn’t imagine a group of more professional, intelligent and brave individuals than the 1/3 Marines that are serving here in Afghanistan.”*



**Staff Sgt. Andrew Giermann,**  
Bloomington, Ill.,  
scout sniper,  
Nangalam,  
Afghanistan

*“To my family back home in Illinois – I miss you and I love you. To my wife Samantha, I am so proud of you. I know our little girl Torrie is due any day now. I can’t wait to lay eyes on the newest addition to our family for the first time when I get back. Thank you to all the good people back in K-Bay who have helped my family during this deployment. It is never easy for a wife to have a baby when her husband is away, and your support has meant the world to us. To my wonderful kids Kaitlyn and Mackenzie, Daddy can’t wait to hug you and be with you again. Samantha, Happy Valentine’s Day. I love you.”*

**Cpl. Jose Gonzalez**  
Hillsboro, Ore.,  
administrative clerk, 1/3  
Asadabad,  
Afghanistan



*“I just want to say hello to my wife Keikko on the big island, and to my family back in Oregon. I am doing fine. I think about you all every day,. and honey, I just want you to know how much I miss you and our beautiful daughter Halinta. I’ll be home soon.”*

**Sgt. Patrick Houck**  
Sugar Land, Texas,  
mess hall manager, 1/3  
Nangalam,  
Afghanistan



*“To everyone back in Texas — mom, dad and my sister Tiffany – just want you to know that I’m safe and OK. To my lovely wife Dareth, who’s serving in the Navy back in Hawaii, know that you are constantly in my thoughts. Happy Valentine’s Day baby — I wish we could have been together. The Marines at Camp Blessing are in the thick of it and we’re getting it done.”*

**Lance Cpl. Justin Keeling**  
Vandalia, Ill.,  
intelligence specialist, 1/3  
Asadabad,  
Afghanistan



*”To my wife Randel – I love you baby and can’t wait to be home with you. To my son Jackson and newborn daughter Emma — Daddy loves you.”*



# Dining facility named after Vietnam hero

**Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

The Anderson Hall Dining Facility is a place where Marines and Sailors aboard base eat three square meals a day. But these Marines and Sailors may not be aware of the history behind the facility's name.

The mess hall was named after Pfc. James Anderson Jr., who served as a rifleman assigned to 2nd Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during the late 1960s, enlisted in the Marine Corps, Feb. 17, 1966.

On Feb. 28, 1967, Anderson's platoon was advancing in a dense jungle northwest of Cam Lo, Vietnam, in order to extract a heavily besieged reconnaissance patrol. His platoon was the lead element and advanced approximately 200 meters when they were surprised by enemy attack. The Marines of 2nd Platoon acted quickly to the attack by retaliating with small-arms and automatic-weapon fire.

Anderson, a Los Angeles native, found himself bunched together with other Marines from his platoon about 20 meters from the enemy's position.

Several of 2nd Platoon's men were wounded and then a grenade landed next to Anderson's head.

In a final act of courageousness, Anderson reached out, grabbed the grenade, and held it tightly to his chest, absorbing the majority of the blast.

Anderson's actions that day saved many of

his comrades from serious injury and possible death.

"It's great to know that an African-American Marine made a difference in that time," said Cpl. Joel N. Rule, food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion. "I think all Marines, no matter what race, should strive to be the kind of Marine Anderson was."

Rule said he believes all Marines should step it up like Anderson did and act as Anderson had.

"I would hope, in a combat situation, that the Marines with me would be the same type of Marine Anderson was," said 22-year-old Rule. "I think what Anderson did is what a true Marine would do."

For Anderson's personal heroism and valor at the Republic of Vietnam, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He gave his life, at 20, in order to save the lives of other Marines in his platoon.

"The Medal of Honor is a great award, and the fact that an African-American Marine was awarded it during the Vietnam War is even more impressive," said Rule, a Clinton, Miss. native.

Aside from the dining facility on base being named in memory of Anderson, a Navy ship was also dedicated to him.

The United States Navy Ship PFC James Anderson Jr. was built in 1979 and 1983.

Rule said, "Anderson gave his life for the well-being of others, and I hope in that situation I would be as brave as he was."



Cpl. Joel N. Rule, food service specialist, Headquarters Battalion, looks at the display of Pfc. James Anderson Jr. at Anderson Hall Mess Hall. The dining facility was named after Anderson who was awarded the Medal of Honor for giving his life during the Vietnam War.

# Luncheon offers recognition for African-American History month

## Guest speaker stresses importance of youth

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

The Presidential Proclamation by President George W. Bush for National African-American History Month, was quoted by Master Sgt. Milton D. White, equal opportunity advisor, Headquarters Battalion. "Today, the accomplishments of African-Americans, in every aspect of our society, continue to encourage people to reach as far as their visions and dreams may take them."

Anderson Hall Dining Facility hosted the African-American History month luncheon Feb. 17 and welcomed ethnic music and a guest speaker, retired Sgt. Maj. John C. Turner.

Entertainment was provided by the group Sewa Fare, which played traditional African music. Dancers who came along with the group demonstrated native dances that welcomed the audi-

ence to join in the last dance.

At the close of the final song, retired Sgt. Maj. Turner was asked to the podium, where he spoke about life and how to gain success and knowledge through perseverance and determination.

"It takes skill, desire, persistence," said Turner. "As U.S. Marines, you understand these words. We do understand, we do not give up, and we do persevere."

Turner said that this month's theme of African-American History Month, is to reach out to today's youth.

"One of the ways that we can reach out to today's youth is through education," said the Springfield, Tenn. native. "That education, to me, begins at birth. The care and attention of the parents is the most important foundation of a child's future.

*“Patriots like Thurgood Marshall and Rosa Parks broke down racial barriers and inspired our nation to make good on the promise of equal justice under the law.”*

**President George W. Bush**

Teaching honor, discipline, values and tradition — These principles cannot only be taught by the parents, but they must be acted out by the parents as well."

Turner said that as a child progresses, he or she will get more independent and that, although older, the education never stops. Not only should a person progress, he or she should excel in all.

"As we recognize and celebrate the month of February, with accomplishments, sacrifices and contributions that African Americans have made," said Turner. "all of us as Americans will embrace the values, the integrity, discipline and character, and let us build the best mousetrap in the world for one nation under God with liberty and justice for all."



## IED Alley: Locals warn of possible dangers

### IED, From A-1

Chicago) who served as minesweepers on this day. “It was about a two-gallon pressure cooker with approximately 15 to 20 pounds of explosives in it. The crater from the explosion was about six feet across and three feet deep. It definitely would have taken a Humvee out and possibly killed Marines,” observed the Harrogate, Tenn. native.

First and foremost in that kill zone were Schenkenfelder and the Marine providing his security – Staff Sgt. Jonathan Bauemer, combat engineer platoon sergeant, 1/3.

“Before going on missions like this, I just say to myself, ‘Hey, I’ve had a good life,’” said Schenkenfelder. “And I really mean that. I’ve been blessed to have a good family, and I’ve been blessed to be able to say I served my country in Iraq and Afghanistan with the finest fighting force on the face of the earth – 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. I am at peace with God.”

For his part, Bauemer was a little less philosophical.

“If I die, I die,” said the Allentown, Pa. native. “But I’ll be damned if I’m going to leave one of my Marines up there on the point without me by his side.”

The attitudes of Schenkenfelder and Bauemer left their OIC impressed.

“If an IED goes off [when]



Sgt. Joe Lindsay

**U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Stephan Alexander Tetreault, an Explosive Ordinance Disposal technician with the 759th EOD team based out of Ft. Irwin, Calif., examines an IED site moments after members of his team detonated a device along the Pech River Road, aka IED Alley, on the outskirts of Bar Kanday in the Kunar Province of eastern Afghanistan. The mine sweeping operation was a joint effort between the Marines, Army and Afghan Security Forces, with help from Afghan locals, who alerted Marines to the presence of the IED. 1st Lt. James Campbell (third from left), Camp Blessing officer-in-charge and a native of Newburgh, Ind. led the mission.**

you’re walking point like the combat engineers were today, then it’s all over” said Campbell. “There’s nothing you can do. Those guys would be the first to go if anything went wrong, and they know that and they accept that and then they go out and accomplish the mission no matter what the danger level is. It takes a lot of heart to do what they do. My hat goes off to

them and all the Marines, soldiers and ASF personnel who were a part of this joint forces mission.”

But of all the individuals involved in the day’s events, the accolades went to the little Afghan boy who originally warned the Marines of the IED.

“This is my third tour in Afghanistan,” said Sgt. Jimmie Evans, a squad leader

with CAAT-2, 1/3. “When I first got here in 2001, I don’t think you would ever have seen anything like we saw today. The Afghans seemed afraid of us back then. Now, things have changed dramatically. The Afghans can tell that we sincerely care for their welfare, and by us carrying about their well-being, they in turn care about our well-being. Respect goes a long

way in this world. If you treat people with respect, then they’ll treat you with respect.”

Lt. Col. James Bierman, commanding officer, 1/3, said he is impressed by the strides the battalion is making in Afghanistan.

“The Marines are performing extremely well,” said Bierman. “This is a complex environment. In particular,

the Marines have picked up on the importance of working with the Afghans — recognizing how much the Afghan Security Forces and the local people bring to the fight. I have been particularly happy with all the efforts the Marines have put into building relationships with the Afghan people – including tribal leaders, district leaders, military personnel and, of course, the citizens of Afghanistan.”

“There’s going to be a lot of sweat and effort and sometimes blood on the tactical level, but the big picture of a free and democratic Afghanistan is moving forward successfully,” continued Bierman. “We are here for very simple and righteous reasons – to ensure that the terrorists who attacked our country on September 11 do not have a sanctuary and base of training and operations in Afghanistan, and to help Afghanistan become a stable, secure and independent democratic country. I think we are ultimately going to win this war, because the majority of the Afghan people support our efforts.”

Evans said that support was never more evident than in the look he saw in the face of the little Afghan boy who warned the Marines of the impending IED.

“You could tell that he was scared we might get hurt, and he didn’t want to see Marines get hurt,” said Evans, a native of St. Louis with strong ties to Palm Desert, Calif. “This country has come a long way. You can see it in the people’s eyes and the way that they talk to us that we’re doing good work here.”

## Mudslide: Marines join local forces

### Aid, From A-1

recovery effort.

Until then, a two-ton rotary drill rig will aid workers. However, its use at the site of the mudslide, which buried the entire village of Guinsaugon, is being postponed pending a minor repair. A small pulley inside the machine was broken when the rig arrived at a site,

explained Manolo Contreras, the owner of Content Transport Services, the company that contracted the rig for use in rescue efforts. Contreras said a replacement for the broken part is en route to the site, and excavation is scheduled to begin no later than 8 a.m. the following day.

The U.S. military contracted the rig specifically for the rescue efforts

at a cost of more than \$7,000. A CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter provided by U.S. forces was scheduled to transport the rig to the disaster area. The rig is a skid-mounted rotary drill rig capable of digging up to 60 meters deep. It is equipped with a mud pump used to remove small rocks and stones from the drilling site.

To date, JTF Balikatan 2006 has

provided supplies and support, including bottled water, military rations, rice, medications, sleeping mats, blankets, pick axes, shovels, 5- and 1.5-gallon water cans, 55-gallon diesel fuel drums, chainsaws, light sets, kettles, and generators. The task force also has provided air and ground transportation.

U.S. and Philippine forces are coordinating with public health

officials to monitor the public health status in the area, officials said.

Joint interoperability exercises such as Balikatan 2006 enable U.S. and Filipino armed forces to respond rapidly to disaster situations such as the disaster that occurred in Leyte.